

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 10, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Claims 20-25 are allowed. Claims 1-19 stand rejected. It is respectfully submitted that the presently rejected claims recite allowable subject matter.

The specification has been amended at paragraphs 007 and 0023 to correct clerical errors. Specifically, in paragraph 007, "said the portion" is corrected to read "the base portion" and is consistent with the claims. In paragraph 0023, a connector plug is indicated as being shown in Figure 2. No new matter is added.

The rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Capp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,795,352) is respectfully traversed.

Capp et al. describe coaxial connectors designed to be mounted on a circuit board. In one embodiment a jack connector (100) and a complimentary plug connector (110) are threaded type connectors that are both designed to be mounted on a circuit board. The jack connector (100) and plug connector (110) each includes a base (21) and a ground leg (22). The jack connector (100) includes a center contact (23), a dielectric insulating member (24), and a threaded outer shell (102). The plug connector (110) includes a center contact (71), a dielectric insulating member (72), and an outer shell (73). The plug connector (110) includes an internally threaded rotatable collar (104) which is mountable to the externally threaded outer shell (102) of the jack connector.

Claim 1 recites an electrical connector including "a base portion configured for stationary mounting to a circuit board; and an interface portion configured for mating to a plug assembly, said interface portion received within said base portion, and wherein said interface portion is

configured for rotational movement relative to said base portion when a predetermined torque is applied to said interface portion”.

It is respectfully submitted that Capp et al. neither describe nor suggest the apparatus recited in claim 1. Specifically, Capp et al. neither describe nor suggest a connector having an interface portion received within a base portion and configured for rotational movement relative to the base portion. Rather, Capp et al. describe a plug connector with a rotatable collar that is not received within any portion of the plug connector.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Capp et al.

Claim 11 depends from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claim 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent claim 11 likewise is patentable over Capp et al..

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 11 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Capp et al. in view of Nordstrom (U.S. Patent No. 4,046,052) is respectfully traversed.

Capp et al. is described above. Nordstrom describes a torque limiting RF connector that includes a base ring (10) bored to receive a cable body (12). A tension ring (20) is fitted in a recess (22) of the base ring (10). A hex ring (25) is fitted over the tension ring (20) and an end (24) of the base ring (10) so that the tension ring (20) is also received in an inner recess in the hex ring (25). The hex ring (25) and base ring (10) are rotatable with respect to one another when a torque limit is exceeded. A coaxial cable (30) is coupled to cable body (12) by threading nut (32) on threaded end (34) of the cable body (12).

Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 which recites an electrical connector including “a base portion configured for stationary mounting to a circuit board; and an interface portion configured

for mating to a plug assembly, said interface portion received within said base portion, and wherein said interface portion is configured for rotational movement relative to said base portion when a predetermined torque is applied to said interface portion”.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Capp et al. nor Nordstrom, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the apparatus recited in claim 1. Specifically, neither Capp et al. nor Nordstrom, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a connector having an interface portion received within a base portion and configured for rotational movement relative to the base portion. Rather, Capp et al. describe a plug connector with a rotatable collar that is not received within any portion of the plug connector. Likewise, Nordstrom describes a hex ring that is rotatable with respect to a base ring wherein the hex ring is mounted on the exterior to the base ring rather than within the base ring.

It is respectfully submitted that the references, even if combined, fail to teach all of the recitations of claim 1 as indicated above. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Capp et al. in view of Nordstrom.

Claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 2-11 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-11 likewise are patentable over Capp et al. in view of Nordstrom.

Claim 12 recites an electrical connector including “a base portion configured for stationary mounting to a circuit board; an interface portion configured for mating to a plug assembly, said interface portion received within said base portion; and a torque limiting member engaging said base portion and said interface portion to limit the torque transmitted to said base portion from said interface portion”.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Capp et al. nor Nordstrom, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the apparatus recited in claim 12. Specifically, neither Capp et al. nor Nordstrom, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a connector wherein

an interface portion is received within a base portion. Rather, Capp et al. describe a plug connector with a rotatable collar that is not received within any portion of the plug connector. Likewise, Nordstrom describes a hex ring that is rotatable with respect to a base ring wherein the hex ring is mounted on the exterior to the base ring rather than within the base ring.

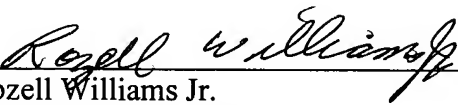
Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, claim 12 is submitted to be patentable over Capp et al. in view of Nordstrom.

Claims 13-19 depend from independent claim 12. When the recitations of claims 13-19 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent claims 13-19 likewise are patentable over Capp et al. in view of Nordstrom.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 2-19 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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